

REMARKS

This is a Supplemental Amendment responsive to the Communication of January 26, 2005 and the Office Action of August 16, 2004. With this response, claim 1 is amended, claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 are canceled and all pending claims 1 and 4-8 are presented for reconsideration and favorable action.

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted an error with respect to claim 1 and rejected that claim under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claim 1 has been amended and it is believed that the rejection may be withdrawn.

The primary art rejections against the claims were based upon Wolf (US 4,375,944) and Abe (US 4,236,879). With this response, independent claim 1 has been amended to clearly distinguish the present invention from the Abe and Wolf references.

As illustrated in Figures 4A and 4B, and as set forth in independent claim 1, the invention provides a plurality of unit processing portions. These unit processing portions have a depressed outer circumference and a protruded corresponding inner circumference. Further, the unit processing portions are at an angle relative to the oil pickup tube.

In contrast to the Wolf reference, the unit processing portions are at an angle relative to the oil pickup tube. Further, in contrast to the Abe reference, the unit processing portions of the claimed invention are disposed around an outer circumference of the oil pickup tube and evenly spaced apart around a radius of the oil pickup tube. In the Abe reference, the "unit processing portions" are aligned along a length of the tube. Further, in independent claim 1, the unit processing portions are closed between the outer circumference and the inner circumference of the oil pickup tube. This is also in contrast to the Abe reference in which holes 21G, 21I extend through the oil

pickup tube. For these reasons, the rejections should be withdrawn.

As the references do not show the arrangement of elements as set forth in the pending claims, it is believed that the amended claims have overcome the rejections. Consideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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